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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Additional Products to Be Covered Under Thai FDA's GDA Requirements

Report Categories:

WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

TH3040: Thailand's Food and Drug Administration proposes additional food products that will be required to have labels displaying nutrition related information.

Thailand's Food and Drug Administration Proposes To Include Additional Food Products That Will Be Required to Display Nutrition Related Information

On April 2, 2013, Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) (G/TBT/N/THA/215/Rev.1 and G/SPS/N/THA/155/Rev.1) of its intent to include additional food products that will be required to have labels displaying Guideline Daily Amount (GDA) information for energy, sugar, fat, and sodium content. GDA is a guide to how much energy and nutrients are present in a portion of a food product and what each amount represents as a percentage of a person's daily dietary needs.

Since August 2011, the FDA has enforced nutrition labeling requirements that display GDA information on the front of product packages for five groups of snack foods, which include: 1) fried or baked potato chips; 2) fried or baked popcorn; 3) rice crisps or extruded snacks; 4) crackers or biscuits; and 5) filling wafers. Under the proposed regulation, the Thai FDA expands the list of food products to include the following:

1. Snack foods, which are:
 - 1.1 Fried or baked potato chips
 - 1.2 Fried or baked corn chips/popcorns
 - 1.3 Rice crisps or extruded snack
 - 1.4 Roasted or salted roasted, or seasoned pea/nut, and
 - 1.5 Fried or baked or seasoned seaweed
 - 1.6 Fried or baked or seasoned fish snack
2. Chocolate and similar products
3. Bakery products, which are:
 - 3.1 Crackers or biscuits
 - 3.2 Assorted wafers
 - 3.3 Cookies
 - 3.4 Cake; and
 - 3.5 Pie and pastry (with and without fillings)
4. Semi-processed products, which are
 - 4.1 Both seasoned and non-seasoned noodles, a sheet of rice noodle (Guay-Jub), egg-noodles, rice vermicelli, and mung bean vermicelli, together with seasonings packet; and
 - 4.2 Seasoned rice congee and porridge rice
5. Chilled and frozen ready to eat meals

The revised product scope and FDA's guidance on the specific format and provisions of the labels are provided at the end of this report. The regulation will come into effect 180 days after the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Appendix

(Draft)

Ministry of Public Health Notification (No....) B.E. ...

RE: Food Required to Bear Nutrition Labeling and Declare Value of Energy, Sugar, Fat, and Sodium in GDA Format

.....

Whereas it is appropriate to display nutrition labeling and declare value of energy, sugar, fat and sodium in the pattern of GDA (Guideline Daily Amounts) on the label of some food categories for the benefit of the consumer and support the preventive measure of nutrition problem;

By virtue of the provision of Section 5 and Section 6(10) of Foods Act B.E.2522 which is an act containing provisions concerning the limitation of the rights and freedom of a person, which Section 29 combined with Section 33, Section 41, Section 43 and Section 45 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand prescribes to be permissible by virtue of a legislation, the Minister of Public Health issues an announcement as follows:

Clause 1. Repeal the following notifications

(1) Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 305) B.E. 2550 (2007) Re: Labeling Requirement on Certain Processed Foods dated 30th August B.E. 2550 (2007)

(2) Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Labeling of Certain Ready-To-Eat Food (No.2) dated 7th April B.E. 2554 (2011)

Clause 2. The following foods shall be required to display nutrition labeling and declare the value of its energy, sugar, fat and sodium content using Guideline Daily Amounts (GDA):

(1) Snack foods, which are:

- (1.1) Fried or baked potato chips
- (1.2) Fried or baked corn chips/popcorns
- (1.3) Rice crisps or extruded snack
- (1.4) Roasted or salted roasted, or seasoned pea/nut, and
- (1.5) Fried or baked or seasoned seaweed
- (1.6) Fried or baked or seasoned fish snack

(2) Chocolate and similar products

(3) Bakery products, which are:

- (3.1) Crackers or biscuits
- (3.2) Assorted wafers
- (3.3) Cookies
- (3.4) Cake; and
- (3.5) Pie and pastry (both with and without fillings)

(4) Semi-processed products, which are

(4.1) Both seasoned and non-seasoned noodles, a sheet of rice noodle (Guay-Jub), egg-noodles, rice vermicelli, and mung bean vermicelli, together with seasonings packet; and

(4.2) Seasoned rice congee and porridge rice

(5) Chilled and frozen ready to eat meal

Clause 3. Labeling of foods under Clause 2 shall comply with the Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Labeling, Notifications of Ministry of Public Health regarding labeling for those specific products, and this notification.

Clause 4. Labeling of foods under Clause 2 shall follow the guidelines below.

(1) Display either one of these two nutrition labeling as follows:

(1.1) Full Nutrition Information Format according to item (1.1) of Attachment 1: Format and provision to present nutrition facts of the Ministry of Public Health Notification regarding Nutrition Labeling or

(1.2) Brief Nutrition Information Format according to item (1.2) of Attachment 1: Format and provision to present nutrition facts of the Ministry of Public Health Notification regarding nutrition labeling. The nutritional information required includes total energy, total fat, protein, total carbohydrate, sugar, sodium, and cholesterol. If such food contains more than 2 milligrams of cholesterol per serving.

In cases where the intent to display nutritional claim of food utilize values in sale promotion or define consumer groups in sale promotions, the Full Nutrition Information Format shall be displayed according to item (1.1) of Attachment 1: Format and provision to present nutrition facts of the Ministry of Public Health Notification regarding nutrition labeling.

(2) Display the value of energy, sugar, fat, and sodium contents under the GDA according to format and provision stipulated under Attachment 1 of this notification.

(3) Foods under Clause 2 (1)-(3) are required to display a statement, "Should consume small amount and exercise for healthy condition," in bold and visible letters. The color of the letters should stand out against the background and color of the label should be distinct from the color of the background label.

Foods under Clause 2, which are multi-packed and co-packed, where the whole front area of label for the individual unit is less than 65 square centimeters and packaged together in a ready to be sold package shall display the label according to Clause 4 on the ready to be sold package, but the calculation for the nutrition labeling and the display value of energy, sugar, fat, and sodium for GDA shall be calculated from individual units.

Clause 5. The person producing or importing such foods mentioned in Clause 2 before this notification has come into force can continue to use the existing label for no later than one year from the date this notification comes into force.

Clause 6. This notification will not be enforced for foods under Clause 2 that are sold directly to consumers from food preparers.

Clause 7. This notification shall come into force after one hundred eighty days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Published on ...

Attachment 1

Attachment to the Ministry of Public Health Notification

RE: Foods Required to Display Nutrition Labeling and Declare Value of Energy, Sugar, Fat, and Sodium in GDA Format

Declaration of amount of energy, sugar, fat and sodium in the food shall be subject to the formats and provisions as follows:

1. GDA (Guideline Daily Amounts) format:

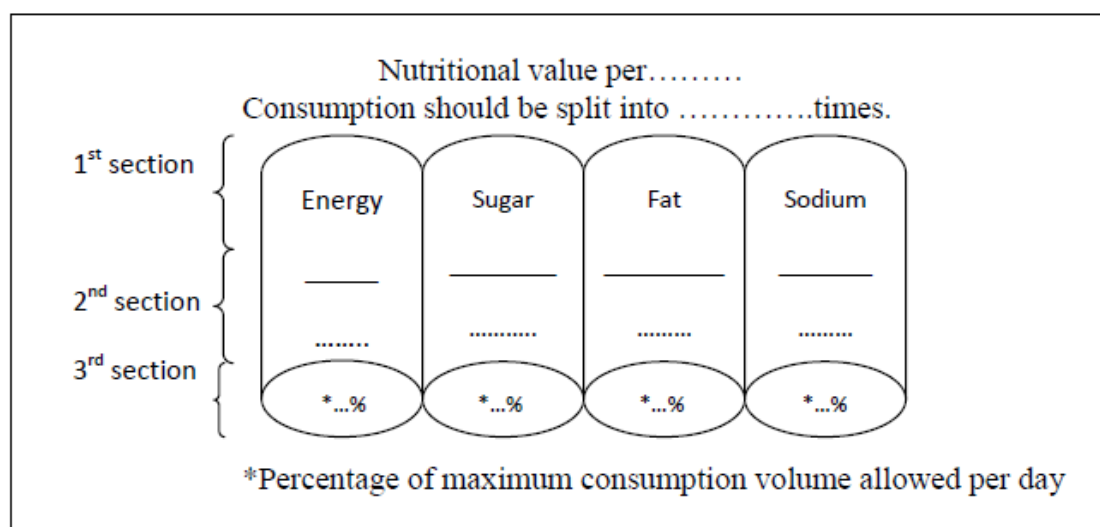
1.1 Cylinder shape with rounded ends line in vertical direction for 4 cylinders to demonstrate amount of energy, sugar, fat and sodium, respectively.

1.2 The edge color of such cylinders shall be in one of the following: black, dark blue or white; as the case maybe and it shall be contrast with the background of the label.

1.3 Background color within the cylinder shall be white only.

1.4 All lines in the cylinder shall be in black or dark blue and shall be the same color as that of characters shown in the cylinder.

1.5 They must be presented in the front of the label in a conspicuous and clear position.



2. Amount of energy, sugar, fat and sodium shall be demonstrated in character pattern and size which can be easily illegible and conspicuous in the cylinder in order as follows:

2.1 1st section demonstrates messages “Energy”, “Sugar”, “Fat” and “Sodium” in the same color as that of the line in the cylinder.

2.2 2nd Section demonstrates amount of energy, sugar, fat and sodium per a unit of package calculated from volume per consumption unit multiplied with number of consumption unit.

Energy unit in kilocalorie (kCal)

Sugar unit in gram or g.

Fat unit in gram or g.

Sodium unit in milligram or mg.

2.3 3rd section demonstrates amount of energy, sugar, fat and sodium in percentage as follows:

Energy in percentage of 2,000 kCal

Sugar in percentage of 65 grams

Fat and Sodium in percentage of 65 grams and 2,400 mg, respectively

3. Demonstrate messages by applying clear and conspicuous characters as follows:

3.1 “Nutritional value per.....” (the blank area shall be filled up with common packaging unit e.g. per 1 cup, sachet, box or bag) shall be in the top of the cylinder.

3.2 “Consumption should be split intotimes” (the blank area shall be filled up with number of times recommended for consumption in case one packaging unit contains volume more than one consumption unit.) shall be under the message “Nutritional value per.....”

3.3 “*Percentage of maximum consumption volume allowed per day” shall be inserted at the lower part of the cylinder.

End of the Report.